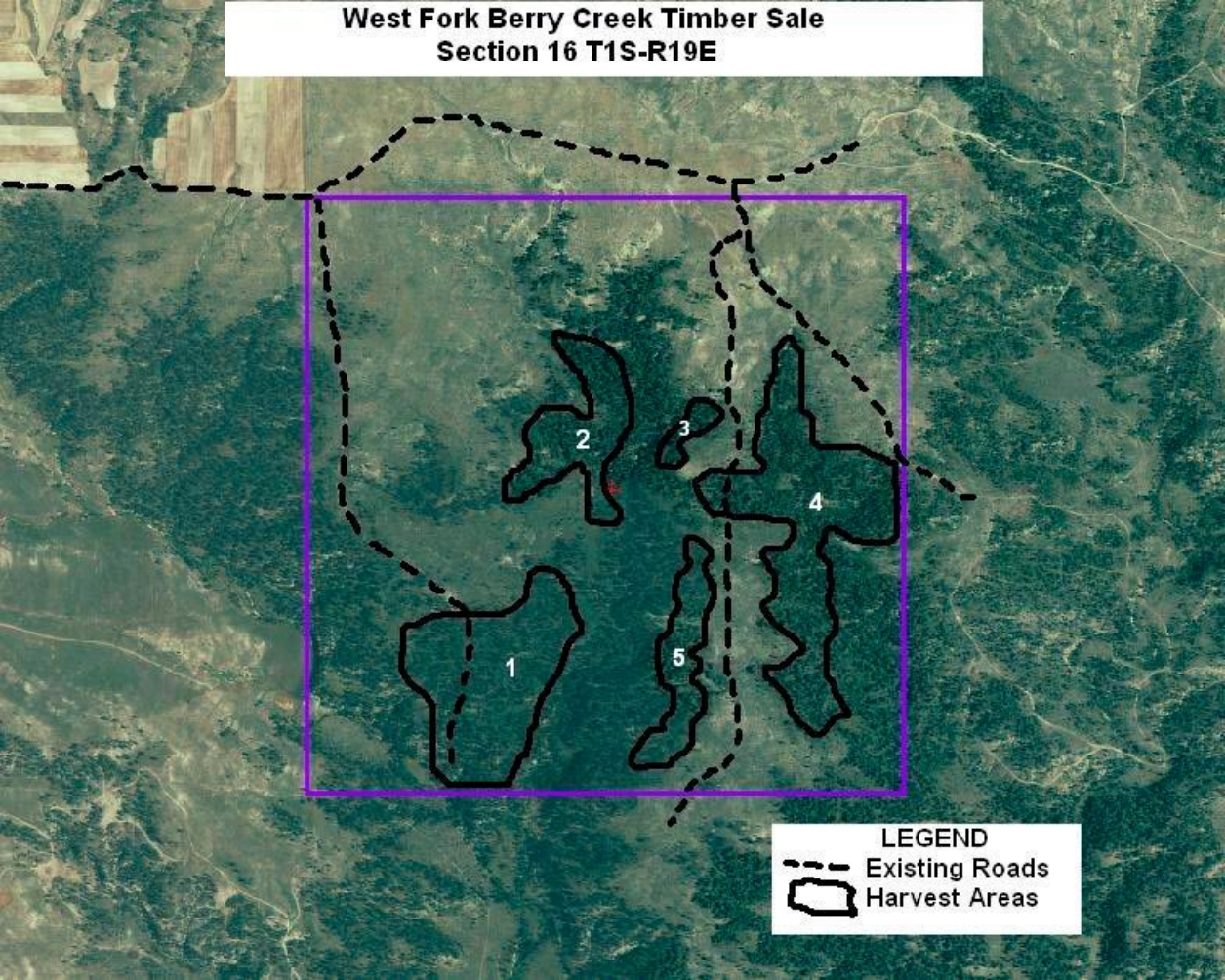




**West Fork Berry Creek Timber Sale  
Section 16 T1S-R19E**



**LEGEND**

-  Existing Roads
-  Harvest Areas

# **WEST FORK BERRY CREEK LIMITED ACCESS TIMBER SALE**

April 21, 2008 Land Board

## **Location of Sale:**

- Bozeman Unit (CLO) – Approximately 10 air miles northwest of Columbus, Montana.
- Stillwater County – Section 16, T1S-R19E
- 100% Common Schools Trust
- **Limited Access** – Adjoining private landowners have granted access to one individual for the sole purpose of conducting a timber sale on this section.

## **Sale Volume & Estimated Value:**

- The estimated sale sawlog volume is 1100 tons (147 MBF) to be sold at the negotiated rate of \$10,560.00 or \$9.60/Ton.
- Approximately 2,000 tons of pulp will be sold at the negotiated rate of \$2.00/Ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$.40/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 7.5 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

## **Sale & Harvest Treatments:**

- The sale contains five harvest units totaling 200 acres.
- Treatment would consist of an over-story removal harvest of approximately 1500 to 2000 board feet per acre.
- Advanced regeneration of ponderosa pine occurs throughout the area.
- This sale contains no old growth.

## **Harvest Systems:**

- 100% tractor

## **Road Construction /Reconditioning:**

- Access to the sale is across private lands owned by the Olson Ranch and the Holmgren Ranch. The ranches have granted exclusive access to Rimrock Timber Inc. A series of low standard range roads on gentle terrain would be developed to access suitable landing areas to accommodate skidding and hauling operations. Existing roads within the sale area would be upgraded to meet current BMP's. All disturbed soils would be grass seeded.

## **Public Involvement:**

- The proposed Purchaser (Rimrock Timber Inc.) initiated this Limited Access timber sale opportunity through a written proposal received by the DNRC on March 12, 2008. The short timeline of presenting and proceeding with the proposal is necessary to meet the adjoining landowners (Van Oosten Ranch) requirement that any harvest done on state ownership be in conjunction and concurrent with the possible harvest of timber from their ownership.
- DNRC Resource Management Specialists and the Montana Natural Heritage Program representative were sent an initial proposal scoping notice to review. No issues or concerns were submitted.

**Issues and Mitigations:**

- **Water Quality** – Upgrades to existing roads would be used to control run-off more effectively and current BMP's would be followed to mitigate any seasonal water run-off concerns to the ephemeral draws. There are no active streams associated with this proposal. Temporary roads and skid trails would be closed and grass seeded to reduce potential sediment.
- **Soils** – Soil productivity would be addressed by leaving woody debris in the woods to facilitate nutrient recycling. Erosion concerns would be addressed by seasonal harvesting limits, approval of a general skidding plan and revegetation of disturbed sites.
- **Noxious Weeds** – To limit potential introductions of noxious weeds, an integrated weed management plan would be utilized. This includes requiring cleaning of off-road harvest equipment, spraying existing weed patches with herbicides, and grass seeding roads, skid trails and other exposed areas.

**The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the West Fork Berry Creek Limited Access Timber Sale.**



**West Fork Berry Creek Timber Sale Proposal  
Vicinity Map  
Section 16 T1S-R19E Stillwater County, MT**

